And further, the Government has already exempted in a subsequent provision such materials by allowing potters to take clay, etc., without sanction.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is it too late, Sir, to ask a question to the Revenue Member? According to this rule, suppose a tenant does quarrying work, and if the Government gets information that it is done for commercial purposes, would he be exempted?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Do you make any difference between laterite quarrying for building one's own house and for selling purposes?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—If quarrying is conducted for building one's own house, premission is given free.

President.—The original resolution runs thus: "In view of the great hardship caused to the subjects of the State by the provision that sanction should be obtained for quarrying laterite stones, gravel, clay, earth, and turf, this Council recommends to the Government that the provision to obtain sanction from the Government and the Jenmi for quarrying the above materials may be deleted from *the Land Revenue Manual*, and that their quarrying may be made free and without sanction."

The resolution, as proposed to be amended, would read thus:—"In view of the great hardship caused to the subjects of the State by the provision that sanction should be obtained for quarrying laterite stones, gravel, clay, earth and turf, this Council recommends to the Government that the provision to obtain sanction from the Jenmi for quarrying the above materials may be deleted from *the Land Revenue Manual*, and that their quarrying may be made free and without sanction."

Having considered the resolution and the amendment carefully, I think it desirable to put the amendment to votes.

The amendment was put to votes and lost.

Partial Holiday for New Moon.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I beg to move that *this Council recommends to the Government that the ordinary business in all public offices and educational institutions be commenced from 2 p. m. on every New Moon day.*

Amavasya day is very important for the Hindus, especially to Brahmins. It is what is called a '*Pitri*' day, literally, a day for performing *Sradha* (Anniversary). The sacredness and importance of the *Sradha* day amongst the Hindus as a class are only too well-known to require any special mention. The

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

importance has been recognised by our sister State of Travancore by declaring the *Amavasya* day as a public holiday. In a Hindu State like ours the necessity for adopting the Travancore policy is indeed patent. Our Government have, no doubt, taken a step in that direction by allowing an hour's time on *Amavasya* days. But it is quite insufficient. The proper time for performing the ceremony is mid-day, according to the Sastras. In the case of a teacher, for instance, he has to perform this mid-day service and attend school at 11, and an officer has similarly to attend office at 12, just the time ordained for the ceremony. I only want to show that the existing so-called concession is no concession at all, and it does not secure the purpose. The present tendency, I am sorry, is to disregard all Sastras even when opportunities for their observance exists. Just think for a moment how painful it will be to deny this opportunity and drive them away from the right path.

There is yet another difficulty to be reckoned with. There are non-Brahmin heads of offices and even Brahmin heads of offices like our Hon'ble Member for Excise, who is fortunate to have his father alive and has not, therefore, to perform this ceremony. In such cases the subordinates concerned will naturally feel it delicate to go late, when their masters attend office in time. Unless it be declared a public holiday, the defect cannot be radically cured. There cannot, of course, be opposition from the Government, as our President, the Diwan, knows the necessity for giving effect to my proposal. My suggestion is only to grant a holiday to enable Brahmins and other Hindus to perform their *Amavasya Sradha* at the proper time and in accordance with the Sastras, without at the same time causing inconvenience, trouble or loss to anybody. I, therefore, believe that there will be no opposition from any one, and that the whole House will support me.

The next *Amavasya* comes tomorrow, Saturday (a holiday to schools). So my resolution tries to take effect automatically.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—I heartily support this resolution.

President.—Why should it be a public holiday ?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The subordinates may feel it delicate to go to office late, if the Head of the Department goes to office in time.

President.—On New Moon days, suppose we make it a holiday to those who have to perform all these ceremonies and all that?

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—In the case of schools, if we do so, the schoolmasters may not come, and no classes could be conducted.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What I meant to say is that it may be considered as a special holiday to Hindus. Therefore, if it could be made as a special holiday for the Brahmins, it would be right to do.

President.—You say that you will have to amend the resolution.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Even non-Brahmins have to perform the *Vavu Bali* on New Moon days.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I think it can be finished by 11 o'clock.

President.—But on ordinary New Moon days I do not think they do anything of that sort. But, for the matter of that, if *Tharpanam* is to be performed according to rules, we ought to do it after 11 o'clock.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Travancore has got a full holiday for New Moon. It is a public holiday.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Is it for the whole day?

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—It is a public holiday, and it is in the Calendar.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—With regard to this resolution, I wish to make an observation.

President.—Why is it, Mr. Krishna Menon, they are giving a full holiday? The ceremony and all that will be finished by 2 o' clock.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—Probably, they don't want themselves to be polluted. There may be dislocation of work, for many may belong to that particular community.

President.—*Sravanam* is a holiday for thread-wearing Hindus only.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—My experience is that, even though some have not to perform *Sravanam*, they don't come to office.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—With regard to this resolution, the Member for Irinjalakkuda was for making it a special holiday for Brahmins. I say that it may be made a public holiday for all. I think it will be proper. The percentage of Brahmins in the State is small. It is a day specially important for the Brahmins, and looking at the percentage of Brahmins in the Government service, it would be proper to make it a public holiday.

Regarding the statement made by the Hon'ble mover that the Cochin State is a Hindu State, I object to that. That point was raised at the last budget session. The Deputy President said that the Cochin State is a Hindu State. The State is an organisation of people for laying down a definite policy for

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

administrative purposes? It may be His Highness is a Hindu. So long as I belong to this State, it is not a Hindu State. The Government is wrong in calling it a Hindu State.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Nobody said that it is a Hindu State.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—The expression "Hindu State" is seen used in the official records.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—That ought to be deleted at once.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The expression "Hindu State" has nothing to do with this resolution.

President.—So far as Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar is concerned, when he said a "Hindu State", it is because we have a Hindu Raja, and he also wanted to say that, since it was ruled by a Hindu Sovereign, it would give some authority to his resolution.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja—I support this resolution. I can understand the difficulties of Brahmins who have to attend office in time after performing *Tharpanam*. I had sent up an amendment to this resolution. Unfortunately, it has not yet reached the Secretary to the Council. I do not know where it is. I posted it on the 10th. My idea is to give leave to all those who have to perform *Tharpanam* for half a day.

President.—To grant leave or to declare it a holiday—which do you mean? If it is casual leave, it will be granted, only if they are entitled for the same.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—A half holiday may be given to all those who have to perform the ceremony. No deduction is to be made, from the casual leave available under the rules, on this account.

President.—Do you mean to say to all those who represent to his superior that he has to perform the ceremony or is it to all Brahmins? If it is the former, then he might say that he has to perform the ceremony, even though he might not have to perform it.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—So long as he has a father, he need not perform it, and it is easy to find out whether he has to perform the ceremony or not.

President.—But there are some cases where a person who has no father need not perform the ceremony. As soon as the father dies, the son need not observe the religious ceremony.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—At any rate, he is supposed to observe that. So leave may be given to him, if he represents he has to perform it

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I support the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Member for Nellayi. I am sorry his resolution is not wide enough. He should have followed the precedent of Travancore, where it is a complete holiday.

Sir, I do not agree with the Hon'ble Member for Pallivirutti in saying that the necessity for holidays and the character of their being special or general should be determined by the percentage of the community which is to enjoy those holidays. On the other hand, the real benefit of holidays are for the Government servants and not for the people at large as is made evident by the mover's speech. Judged by that test, and seeing that the proportion of Brahmins in the State service is abnormally large, I would think it absolutely necessary to have a full holiday.

President.—Is it an amendment?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—No, I support the resolution.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—A similar question was raised by the Hon'ble Member representing Muhammadans to extend them a privilege on all Fridays to attend to their ceremonies. This resolution seems more or less like that.

President.—Friday is a ceremonious day for the Mussalmans. Similarly, New Moon is a ceremonious day for Brahmins.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—As regards schools, I have to say this. There are a large number of Hindu students in schools and colleges. If a holiday is given on all New Moon days, they will suffer.

President.—It is only one day in a month.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Now, they are to attend only at 11 a m., and as regards public offices, it is 12 a. m.

President.—What is the rule in British India?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—In the Madras Presidency, on New Moon days, Hindu clerks may attend office one hour late. But there is a general power vested in the heads of offices that special holidays may be allowed to the subordinates, if there is a special ceremony or a special function to be performed without distinction of any class or creed, and those holidays need not be deducted from the casual leave If we adopt that principle here, we can grant special holidays to anybody. In British India, the rules are very wide. Further, each District has its own method of giving special holidays In connection with another resolution, I had submitted a long report stating the British practice and Travancore practice. I have not all the facts in my mind now. So far as the present resolution is concerned, the British practice is, on New Moon days, all Hindu clerks may attend office one hour late.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

President.—I can suggest this thing. We have now "2 p. m." in the resolution. Let all Brahmin clerks who have got to perform *Tharpanam* attend office at 1 p. m. But there is one difficulty, if the father is to attend office only at 2 p. m.; for the sons, it may not be possible to attend earlier. So they may attend schools only in the afternoon. We can give them a holiday for 3 periods. School boys may have a half holiday, and the Brahmin clerks may attend office at 1 o'clock. We may effect a sort of compromise, if the mover of the resolution will agree to it.

Mr. C. Matthai.—So far as schools are concerned, the present system of giving one hour is working well.

President.—So you give one hour to schools.

Mr. C. Matthai.—They assemble at 11 o' clock, instead of 10 o' clock on New Moon days.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Is it the practice in all schools?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Yes. In offices, the clerks are allowed to come at 12 o' clock.

President.—So what do you say to the suggestion that we may give a holiday on New Moon days?

Mr. C. Matthai.—There are not too many working days for schools. We should have 180 working days. Now, it comes to only just that.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Why not give a full holiday to children? They should be given holidays.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Is it special to Brahmins in schools also?

Mr. C. Matthai.—I object to its being special to Brahmins.

President.—The mover's object is that it should be given without any distinction.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I would support the resolution as it is. The question is not how many people would be affected by it. We should respect the religious sentiments of all classes and creeds. Sunday is a general holiday; we have the Christmas holidays. These holidays are given out of consideration to the religious sentiments of Christians. The *Onam* holidays are similarly granted out of regard to the ceremonies and customs of the Hindus. We respect Muslim sentiments and grant holidays for Dasra, Bakrid, etc. The New Moon day is quite a sacred day for Hindus, on which religious ceremonies have to be performed. These ceremonies are performed not only by Brahmins but by other classes of Hindus too.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

President.—You call the ceremoney 'മാസ മാസി', is it not?

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—Yes. The list of holidays requires a general revision. The grant of a half holiday would not seriously affect work either in public offices or schools. The New Moon day is a holiday in Travancore. The insinuation that there are more Hindus in the various departments than other communities is entirely out of place. I heartily support the resolution.

President.—So that it comes to this. Instead of 12 o' clock in public offices, we assemble at 2 o' clock. So far as educational institutions are concerned, we assemble at 1-30 p.m. If this resolution is to be carried, how can it be changed? For in the resolution it is "2 p. m."

Mr. C. Matthai.—For the schools, it can be changed to 1-30 p. m. Then only we get 3 periods; if it is 2 p. m., there will be some difficulty.

President.—So they are to come after the interval only. So we will have to make an amendment to the resolution by adding "and educational institutions at 1-30 p. m."

Mr. C. Matthai.—It could be done more easily by amending "2 o'clock into "1-30 p. m."

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I agree to that amendment, Sir.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—It would be very difficult for the little children to come at 1-30 p. m. My opinion is that they should be given a full holiday.

Dr. A. R. Menon. We do not want a holiday. We want to give facilities for the Hindus to perform ceremonies on New Moon days.

President.—Then it comes you have to give a full holiday for the New Moon.

Mr. C. Matthai.—We can arrange it in another way. We shall give a holiday on New Moon day to schools, and make up the day by working on a holiday. Then, there is no additional holiday granted.

President.—So the question is full. Both the public offices and educational institutions are combined here. We should make it a holiday to public offices till 1-30 p. m., and for educational institutions, it should be a holiday, for little children will have to come in the hot sun.

Mr. C. Matthai—As for making it a holiday on New Moon days and making it up by working on a subsequent holiday, we have the power, and the Council need not do anything.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

President.—If the Director of Public Instruction will arrange like that, that on New Moon days there shall be no school, and that they will work on the ensuing Saturday, and if, for public offices, it will be a holiday till 1 30 p. m. or 2 p. m., as it may be, we shall come to an understanding and settle the matter. In Travancore a full holiday is given on the New Moon day.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In Travancore do they have all the holidays which we have here?

President.—I think they have got more. I think, so far as the educational institutions are concerned what Mr. Matthai says can be accepted; and they may be given a holiday on a New Moon day, and may be asked to work on a Saturday instead.

Mr. C. Matthai.—Is this rule to be confined to institutions where there are a considerable number of caste-Hindus?

President.—We need not go into that distinction. Let it be extended to all. Let New Moon day be a holiday, and if you can arrange that, it will satisfy the purpose. So far as public offices are concerned, the question is whether they should be given a full holiday or till a particular time, say 1-30. Would you like to have a holiday till 1-30 p. m., Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Yes, Sir.

President.—Then, I think we can introduce it.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Does this concession extend only to Brahmins?

President.—For all. We do not make any distinction.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I am willing to withdraw my resolution on the assurance given by the Government that it will be given effect to. Tomorrow happens to be the *Amavasi* day, and so my resolution may be given effect to from tomorrow.

Leave was given to withdraw the resolution.

President.—The next resolution is that standing in the name of Mr. Chakko.

Holidays for some Syrian Christians.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—I beg to move the following resolution:—"*This Council recommends to the Government that Christmas, Ephiphany, Easter and Ascension days as observed by the Syrian Christians (other than Romo-Syrians and Protestant Syrians) may be declared to be public holidays special to such Syrian Christians.*"

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly